



**Welcome to Vanderbilt! We rejoice that you are here to worship God with us.**

Children are important members of our faith community and are welcome in worship. Please ask an usher if assistance is needed. As a courtesy to others, please turn off cell phones during the service. The asterisk (\*) in the bulletin indicates that the congregation is asked to stand as able. We use responsive or unison readings and prayers at different times. The leader will read the words in *italics*, the congregation reads words in **bold print**.



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*The church is a member of the Peace River Presbytery, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). OneLicense.net 3 A-719387*



**December 24, 2024  
Christmas Eve — 7pm  
Worship Participants**

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor**  
**The Borden Family, Christ Candle Liturgists**  
**Jerry Grandey, Liturgist**  
**James Cochran, Director of Music**, playing the  
**Richard & Patricia Fors Organ** given to the glory  
of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist.  
**The Chancel Choir**

**Julie Carver, Pianist**  
**Susan Norbeck, Flutist**  
**David Curtiss, Baritone**  
**Greeters:** Jan Fern & Barbara Hebert  
**Ushers:** Greg & Julie Borden (Head Ushers), Sonja  
Cookson, Joe & Sharon Doggett  
**Audio/Visual Technician:** Victoria Bonavita

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Prelude:** Christmas Music for Flute and Piano

Susan Norbeck, *Flute*

**Welcome**

**Lighting of the Candles**

The Borden Family

*Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).*

**Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).**

*We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go. Amen.*

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| <p>1. O come, all ye faithful,<br/>Joyful and triumphant,<br/>O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!<br/>Come, and behold Him,<br/>Born the King of angels!<br/><i>Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,</i><br/>O come, let us adore Him,<br/>O come, let us adore Him,<br/>Christ, the Lord!</p> | <p>2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,<br/>Born this happy morning,<br/>Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;<br/>Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3. Sing, choirs of angels,<br/>Sing in exultation!<br/>Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!<br/>Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! <i>Refrain</i></p> |
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### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. *(silence)* Amen.

#### Affirmation of Forgiveness

*Friends believe the good news of the gospel.*

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

### Prayer of Illumination

#### The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

*<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music:** "The Christmas Gift"

Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

The Chancel Choir

**The Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1-14

*<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. <sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Glory to God!"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

**Anthem:** "May the Light of Christ"

McDonald

The Chancel Choir

**\* A Christmas Creed**

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small. I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today. I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts. I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible. I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. I confess my everlasting need of God: the need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold. I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem that night, for me and for the world. Amen.**

## The Christmas Offering

Offertory Music: "Sleep, Little Lamb "

Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

David Curtiss, *Baritone*

## The Lighting of the Candles (*Seated*)

**HOT WAX CAUTION: Do not tip the flaming candle. Tip the unlighted candle into the flame.**

Congregational Carol #60: "Silent Night" (*Seated*)

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| <p>1. <b>Silent Night! Holy Night!</b><br/>All is calm, all is bright,<br/>Round yon virgin mother and child!<br/>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace.</p> <p>2. <b>Silent Night! Holy Night!</b><br/>Shepherds quake at the sight;<br/>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born!"</p> | <p>3. <b>Silent Night! Holy Night!</b><br/>Son of God, love's pure light<br/>Radiant beams from Thy holy face<br/>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,<br/>Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.</p> <p>4. <b>Silent Night! Holy Night!</b><br/>Wondrous star, lend thy light;<br/>With the angels let us sing,<br/>Alleluia to our King;<br/>Christ the Savior is born,<br/>Christ the Savior is born.</p> |
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The Christmas Prayer (*Please extinguish your candles after the Prayer.*)

## \*Commission and Blessing

*Go into the night, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard.*

*Alleluia!*

**Amen!**

\* Hymn #40: "Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

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| <p>1. <b>Joy to the world, the Lord is come:</b><br/>Let earth receive her King;<br/>Let every heart prepare Him room,<br/>And heaven and nature sing, (3 times)</p> <p>2. <b>Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:</b><br/>Let us our songs employ;</p> | <p><b>While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains</b><br/><b>Repeat the sounding joy, (3 times)</b></p> <p>4. <b>He rules the world with truth and grace,</b><br/><b>And makes the nations prove</b><br/><b>The glories of His righteousness,</b><br/><b>And wonders of His love, (3 times)</b></p> |
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Postlude: "An Old Noel"

César Franck (1822-1890)